

M.A.P.S. *Digest*

Official Publication of
Mid-America Paleontology Society



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A LOVE OF FOSSILS BRINGS US TOGETHER

MAPS Board of Directors

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A TRIP WORTH REMEMBERING

Hilda M. Maloney, PO Box 1058, Willows, California 95988

Four of us set out from San Francisco, four more from Texas, one from Arizona, one from Michigan and two from Illinois to meet at a common destination, Stuttgart, Germany. This was the beginning of the fossil hunting tour sponsored by the Mid-America Paleontological Society and organized by Gerry and Gil Norris. We were met by our tour leader, Andreas Richter and his wife, Gabbo. Also Britta Charleston who helped to interpret and the bus driver whose name I can not remember. All four were very helpful throughout our trip.

We visited two museums that afternoon, the world famous Hauff Museum in Holzmaden near Kirchheim/Teck where we saw beautiful crinoid slabs also ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs, sea crocodils, fishes, belemnites with preserved soft parts and much more. The second museum was the Engel Museum in Jebenhausen near Goppingen which represented a famous fossil hunter's collection of Jurassic fossils. We arrived at our hotel in Dettingen/Teck and had a good dinner. Needless to say we slept well that night after a long, long day.

Next morning we were up at 7:00 with breakfast at 7:30. It consisted of two crispy crusted buns for each of us and platters of sliced meats of various kinds and sliced cheese. We also had packaged jam and a soft cheese as well as coffee. This was repeated for the rest of the trip. It was good but a bit different than our usual fare. The bus was waiting outside the door and our destination was a quarry in Ohmden near Holzmaden. We stopped on the way to pick up items for lunch. Our anticipation rose as we approached the working area. We had to split up slabs of slate and collect the fossils that were exposed. There were lots of ammonites and an occasional belemnite. In selecting our material we had to keep in mind the fact that all of it had to be carried back to the bus. Perhaps it was

good that there was a limiting factor. The larger plates could be cut down later by a stone-mason.

On Friday morning we left Dettingen through beautiful country to Nordlingen, a wonderful old town of the Middle Ages with a wall around it and a narrow arched entrance. There had been a mote but this area was now a park where children played. We walked on top the wall and then down into the town where many of the houses had window boxes filled with flowers. The St. George Church was impressive. Then we went through the "Nordlinger Ries", the world's biggest impact crater, and on to Harburg Castle, the best preserved castle of the Middle Ages in Germany. Cameras came out in profusion. Then we were on our way again to our hotel in Berching. After dinner a fossil collector came to see us to swap and sell some of his fossils.

Saturday morning we headed for the Nurenburg Mineral and Fossil Show. There was a lot of gold material there. In the afternoon we hunted for fossils, mostly white ammonites in the famous clay pits of Untersturmig near Forchheim. They were not too plentiful. A fossil collector from the area came to the quarry and we were able to buy some beautiful specimens from him to add to our meager collection.

The next morning we went to the big quarry of Lauterhofen near Neuamrkt/Oberpfalz. Here the fossils were in limestone which had been broken up and lay in piles on the floor of the quarry. When we saw evidence of fossils we broke up the matrix with rock hammers, chisels and occasionally pick-axes. The ammonites were green in color. They were from the Upper Jurassic Period. In the afternoon we went to the big quarry in Saal near Kelheim where we hunted in cream colored reef-limestone for brachiopods of different kinds and found an occasional oyster.

On Monday we went to the region of Eichstatt/Solnhofen to hunt in the Upper Jurassic Solnhofen Formation. We were warned that fossils in this area were extremely rare. We did find some of the little floating graptolites, Saccocoma pectinata. I also found a fish and the mouth parts of an ammonite. There were beautiful dendrites all over the quarry. In the afternoon we also visited a trades-man who had Solnhofen fossils. He had shrimp, crabs, fish, dragonflies, and many other interesting fossils. He traded for some of our material, but not much.



Tuesday there was a misty rain but we put on our boots and rain gear and ventured out into the famous quarry of Sengenthal near Neumarkt/Oberpfalz. Here we worked in the Middle and Upper Jurassic material which was red and yellow in color. I think we got less material in this quarry than any other but the ammonites were well worthwhile if you could get them out whole. There were also lots of belemnites. The mud would cling to our feet and we had difficulty moving from spot to spot.

The next day we traveled to Mistelgau near Bayreuth which is located on the Main River. This is as far north as we were to go on this trip. We worked in the clay pit at Mistelgau which is Lower and Middle Jurassic material. The ammonites were pyritized. The most common was Pleydellia aalensis. I was fortunate enough to get five of a rare variety called Pleurolytoceras hircinum in the Lower Jurassic. In this quarry we could dig through a light clay shale or hunt float

material on top the ground. I did a little of both. In the afternoon we took a sight seeing tour through the "Franconian Swiss". It was a beautiful area. Then we visited the little town of Gobweinstein and saw the interesting baroque Basilika and also visited a fine fossil shop. Later we wandered in all directions and were to meet at the bus at 5 o'clock. Rozeline, Henrietta, Mary Eva and I started out together. Soon Rozeline disappeared, then Mary Eva. Henrietta and I found a little shop that served coffee and all kinds of wonderful cakes and pastries. We sat down and enjoyed a piece of Black Forest Cake and coffee. Then we started back to the bus. Most of the towns we visited or passed through looked like the illustrations in a fairy story book with their quaint houses and window boxes full of flowers. There were many churches with steeples of different kinds and many castles on the hills around them.

On Thursday the day before we were to leave for Munich, we had to choose between packing up our fossils or going to see the famous Jura Museum at Willibaldsburg in Eichstatt where there are mainly fossils from the Solnhofen Formation. We decided that although we would rather go to see the Museum, we had better stay home and get our fossils packed up to send home. Even then, we barely made it in time to take out packages to the post office. We had a special dinner that night with a small leg of pork for each two people, a glass of wine compliments of our hotel hosts, and apple struddle for dessert. Our room was on the third floor looking down on a small stream with stone bridges and ducks floating down stream. There were church steeples in the distance and steep roofed houses on the other side of the stream.

We left early Friday morning for Munich and Europe's largest mineral and fossil show. Our bus took us to our hotel on the outskirts of Munich and then to the show. The show was quite impressive. There were many fossil dealers there as well as mineral dealers. Some of them we had met before in their homes and some we had met in shows in the United States. I had to buy an extra carry-on bag to put in some of my purchases.

We had hoped to schedule a tour on Sunday but almost everything closes on Sunday. So we were up early on Monday taking the train to

the Central Railway Station where we picked up sweet rolls and oranges for breakfast to eat in the park while we waited for the tour bus to take us to the Neuschwanstein Castle. It's setting was in the Bavarian Alps with lakes below it. Out of every window there was a view worth painting. In the castle itself there were many paintings and the major part of them represented motifs which served as themes for Richard Wagner's operas. The beautiful lighting fixtures were of gilded brass. There were intricate wood carvings throughout the castle. The throne room was in the Byzantine style. A throne of gold and ivory should have been placed there but the project was never finished because of the young king's untimely death by drowning under mysterious circumstances. We



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From Gil and Gerry Norris
the tour leader.

enjoyed the tour which was an appropriate ending to our stay in Germany.

We flew home the next day taking the great circle route over Ireland and Greenland. The pilot flew lower so we could see Greenland with its snow covered mountains and deep fiords. Then we flew over Canada and on to St. Louis where we went through customs and then home to San Francisco. We awakened at 6 a.m. on Tuesday morning and we arrived at 6 a.m. on Wednesday by German time but it was 9:30 p.m. San Francisco time. Our wonderful fossil trip was over.

(Ed. comment--Many thanks, Hilda, for a fascinating story of the trip so many of us would have loved to be a part of. What a storehouse of memories to last a lifetime.)

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a little more about the scheduling and

The 12 of us had a dream "hunt" for 9 days. The scheduling was TIGHT. It was a lovely mix of museums, fossil private collections, quarries and even ½ day at the Nuernburg show which we hadn't known of. Each museum had its own way of presenting fossils...one had a marvelous "one extraction" whole wall of giant crinoids, possibly 36 feet long with superb detail. Prehistoric fish and animals were abundant and large. One display took one through the exposure of the fossil in steps. First just a hint of something in the matrix, then fuller exposed, next fully exposed but untreated, and finally the magnificent specimen on the wall.

One tower on a medieval castle impressed us. The roof of the tower was attached in such a way that if it caught on fire, it could be unhooked and heaved off.

A new canal is being built on the Danube. Construction crews are watching the digging very carefully hoping for fossil finds.

When we returned to the hotel at night, Mr. Richter would tell us about tools to use, kinds of rock to expect the next day, and what fossils we might expect to find. Evenings were filled with discussions, slides of the fossils of the quarries, and identifications.

Mr. Richter was interested that we displayed a family accord and enjoyed each other and shared and helped each other. Perhaps because of MAPS pre-acquaintance?!

FOSSIL SHOWS IN GERMANY by Gil

The shows in Germany are different from the ones in the U.S. in many respects. Major differences are 1) the absence of findings and cabs. All jewelery is in finished form or faceted gems ready for settings. 2) Shows close at 6 p.m. with no night hours. Friday is for dealers only with masses of public in the aisles Saturday and Sunday. 3) There is a much better balance between the fossil, mineral, and jewelery dealers. Also there is enough material offered to keep a devotee happy in any of the divisions. 4) No amateur displays--and only a few museum displays of the show theme (tourmeline this time). 5) Fossils are priced much higher than in the U.S. 6) There is almost a complete absence of Paleozoic fossils. I ~~was~~ a few Bohemian and Moroccan trilobites and ammonites plus a little Bundesbach material. Otherwise it was Mesozoic and Cenozoic.

Anna and I are wont to go off on our own more often than sticking with a tour group. We did quite a bit of wandering in Stockholm by subway and bus, as well as on foot. We were impressed by the murals on the walls of the subway stations. We found a plaza within walking distance of our hotel, with produce and craft stands where we bought strawberries and cherries, and craft items. We also found a patisserie where we bought fresh fruit tarts. Ice cream in Stockholm was delicious. Eyeing cloths in store windows, we were surprised at the high prices. At the time we were there, Sweden had a 17½¢ sales tax.

We had no difficulty communicating with the Swedes. English is a second language in Sweden.

A highlight of Stockholm was several trips to a large park. There we saw an area where luxurious grass grew on the roof tops of houses.

We had written ahead to the Swedish Museum of natural History where we were met by officials who gave us a special tour of the fossil and mineral exhibits. We saw an impressive exhibit of fossil fish--many fossil fish on single slabs. An interesting story was that they had been procured from China many years ago when China was governed by an imperial regime. The current Chinese government was trying to get the Swedish government to return them. It seemed the fish were likely to stay in Sweden.

We brought with us fossil and mineral specimens which we gave to museum officials. They gave us some specimens and we arranged to do some trading when we got home.

The tour sponsors gave a banquet one evening, preceded by a herring, salmon, meatball smorgasboard. Entertainment was also supplied. The following morning we went on a bus tour of Stockholm. The most spectacular sight was the City Hall, a striking building inside and out. It had a huge room with gold-covered walls. It was built with material from Germany, after W. W. II, when the German mark was worth very little.

The day came to board the ship for Russia. Our small but well equipped stateroom had four

bunks. The Russian ship was often used for Antarctic scientific expeditions. We were free to wander around the vessel. The food^{or} was plentiful and good. On occasion, beet/cabbage soup was served and the tourists seemed to like both. There was entertainment from time to time and a number of bars on the ship. Ship officials required payment to be made in American money, thus securing money exchange resources. There were also a number of "one-armed bandit" machines on the ship. We found prices at the ship's gift shop cheaper than Soviet tourist stores. The ship's staff was courteous but hardly friendly, with the exception of the waiters, some of whom spoke English. The ship's English speaking information officer was also helpful. The doctor on the vessel was a woman.

The ship moved out of the harbor and into the Baltic Sea. Our first stop was the city of Turku, Finland. Upon arrival a tour bus took the group into the country where we visited several churches. Most churches had a replica of a ship hanging in the church. The bus took us to a resort town alongside the Baltic Sea, where residents of Finland often have a summer home. Finns have a deep feeling for the land and the sea.

At a large open market in the heart of the city Anna and I stood in line for strawberries surrounded by local people with pails for their strawberries.

We departed next for the USSR. Our first Russian stop was Tallin. Tallin is in Estonia, a country occupied by Russia during WWII. Anna and I decided to go off on our own once more. We walked on narrow interesting streets with ancient buildings. There was a lot of construction work going on in preparation for the Yacht competition to be held at the Olympics the coming year. We decided to get a bus to see what we could see. About 4 or 5 miles out into the suburbs, we got off at a small open market where we bought strawberries and violets. With the vendors' permission Anna took some snapshots.

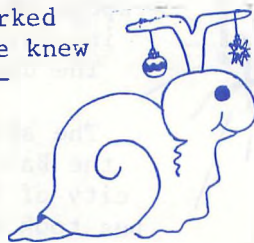
Returning presented a problem. Neither of us had thought to get the bus route number. Nearby was a large bookstore. I had a small map of the city with me which showed where the harbor was. The English-Russian phrase book had the Russian word for bus. Getting to the cash register lady I pointed to the harbor on my map and uttered the word for bus. She caught on and wrote out two numbers on a



piece of paper.

We boarded our ship, ready for the next adventure. From early morning to night, at the foot of the ship's ladder stood two army men. One would examine your passport and visa, look at you to compare the picture, then pass them on to the other who would repeat the process. They would keep the passport and give you a temporary pass. On returning we would go through a reverse process.

Before our departure we met an American Scientist who had a geologist friend in Leningrad. He had promised her a rock hammer and asked us to deliver it. She worked for the Antarctic Institute. We knew her name and the names and location of the Institute. The bus we took to the Antarctic Institute ran along the Neva, an impressive Russian river. Leningrad has a number of rivers with large islands connected by bridges. Nevsky Square is a very large square with impressive buildings, the largest of which is the Hermitage, one of Russia's prides.



At Nevsky Square we asked several people where Moika Street was. Finally an elderly lady motioned for us to follow her, and after a few blocks we reached Moika. Moika is both a river and a street. Street numbers were rare and the blocks were long. After walking about two more miles we came to 120 Moika, the Institute, at last. Inside I got out the phrase book, found the page where it said (in Russian) "Does anyone here speak English?" The receptionist read it, nodded and shortly a young woman came who spoke English. She was a professional interpreter. She told us the geologist to whom the hammer was to go was attending a meeting in Amsterdam. We gladly turned the hammer over to her.

Months before leaving the USA I had written to a museum in Leningrad, and had received a cordial letter from the Director inviting us to visit the museum. The museum was within walking distance from the ship. We were lucky to find a young man who spoke English. He said he would ask his boss if he could take us to the museum. At the museum our friendly guide went into a room with us, spoke to someone in Russian and waited until someone came to take us to the Director.

The Director was a friendly, middle-aged person. First he tried to talk to us in Russian. Then he tried in French. We knew some French but his was so fluent and fast that we could not follow it. He called for an interpreter. If any American museum has an interpreter on its staff it is not known to me.

I gave him the box of specimens we had brought and he was very appreciative. He showed us a small shelf in his office with some specimens on it and said that was what they had from outside Russia. In a little while in came the curator for minerals. The mineral hall or room was immense. We got the impression that there were many different kinds of minerals in the USSR. The curator indicated a number of his better specimens were sent to a museum in Moscow.

The fossil curator was an elderly lady. The fossils were in two rooms, considerably smaller than the mineral hall. There was a considerable number of invertebrates and some vertebrates. As we were about to leave a lady came in and began to make some labels for some fossil and mineral specimens which were for us. We were also given an impressive looking document to assure that ~~we~~ we would be able to take them out of the country--we never did use it.

The Director took us back to the ship in his car. Russians drive on the right side of the road. One of the minerals given us was a very nice Astrophyllite and one of the fossil specimens was a trilobite. In the Director's office I had spoken to him about trading and he was for it. After we got home I sent him a box of fossils and some minerals, but did not hear from him. Two letters from me were not answered. A call to the Russian Embassy to ask for them to check with him elicited no interest in making such contact.

We were told that there was some dollar stores for tourists in the Nevsky Square area. At the Museum the Director had told us that the St. Isaacs Church had pillars of lapis lazuli. Since it was in the Nevsky Square vicinity we thought we would visit it. We found it but also found long lines of people so we decided to forego that attraction.

We did not see any large stores and what we saw in the windows were high-priced. On the walk back to the ship we found a store the size of a mom and pop operation in this country.

It had some groceries, some delicatessen and some meats. We saw a can with a fish and tomato on the wrapper and pointed to it. We were given a slip which we took to a cashier where we made payment. The slip was marked. We took it back and were given the can.

In Leningrad we did not see newspapers on display or for sale; however we saw only a small portion of Leningrad.

Next day the ship left for Stockholm. Tourists, in small groups were invited to climb to the captain's deck. It was very interesting to see the elaborate equipment. Among the equipment was a sophisticated radar machine and a stabilizer which the captain said came from America.

In Stockholm while waiting for the plane to take us home, we came to a square where a band was playing. There we found our old open market and bought cherries and strawberries. From there we went to a two block park which had a lot of activity, including chess squares with huge chessmen which the players picked up and put on the square they desired.

On the plane, we pushed back our watches six hours and arrived at Kennedy Airport about 1:20 p.m. We thought it was a very fine trip.

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Popular Mollusk & Sea Life Books -- Shells and Sea Life,
1701 Hyland, Bayside, CA 95524 Telephone 707-822-1024

A little note sent with this address says "These people have many fossil books available including many monographs. A copy of Moore, Lalliker was about \$45.00.

Books from world wide sources.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

ADDRESS CHANGES -- Please update your Membership Directory

JOHN D. BERRY RR #3 Box 188, Unionville, MO 63565

JEAN-GUY PELLERIN 6855 - 35th Ave #12, Rosemont, Montreal Quebec H1T 3A8 CANADA
Phone -- 514 729 8460

JERRY RUSH 3525 Rawson Place, Cincinnati, Oh 45209

RICHARD ZARWELL 520 E. Morningside Drive, Burlington, IA 52601

WILLIAM J. TATTRIE
3269 Schubert Rd
Kamloops, B.C.,
CANADA V2B 6Y4
604-579-9344

Retired. Since retiring have taken 2 college courses in geology. Living in area where some fossils are available wish to increase my knowledge of fossils and learn to identify them and then learn more about this complex that makes up the West Coast of North America.

JURGEN HENZEL
Ententeich 4
D-3100
Celle WEST GERMANY

See Membership Directory for information. Please note error change in address--D-3100 not D-3700. Welcome back, Jurgen!

RU D.A. SMITH (Mr.)
Emanuel College
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
UNITED KINGDOM

Geology Research Student. Will trade. Jamor interest Palaeozoic fish. Has Palaeozoic arthropods, Echinoderms and Fish. Looking for opportunities to trade and to increase my knowledge of Palaeontology.

MISS MABEL SUCKLISWORTH
4 Cherry Orchard
Great Shefford
Newbury, Berkshire
BRITAIN
048-839-714 (Seems as tho a # is missing)

Geologist. Will trade. Major interest field geology plus interest in Palaeozoic fishes particularly Agnatha. Has Palaeozoic fishes: Wenlock invertebrates. Wants contacts with international palaeontologists

ANDREAS E. RICHTER
Ifenstrabe 8 1/2
d-890 Augsburg
WEST GERMANY
082-662988

Author. Fossil Tour Director Through Europe.

JEREMY S. EYE
Rt #2 Box 236A
Bloomfield KY 40008
502-252-8239

. Collecting 1 year. Will trade. Major interest trilobites.

MARY EVA KERLING
3164 Stingy Lane
Anderson, CA 96007
916-365-8364

Retired teacher. Will not trade. Likes a variety of fossils. In my area fossils are either crumbly or very scarce. If finds extra fossils I give them to friends. Joining because she likes fossils.

JON KRAMER
% Potomac Museum
PO Box 2743
Silver Springs, MD 20902

Old member re-joining. New Address.
Welcome back, Jon!

WILLIAM L. HUSTED
Box 36-A
Shellsburg, IA 52332
319-436-2074

Maintenance Mech. Will not trade. Major interest crinoids.

W. S. LOWE
421 Brian Dr.
Grand Prairie, TX 75051
214-226-5824

Manager. Will trade. Primary interest vertebrates. Has Cretaceous ammonites, primarily Acanthoceras. Joining primarily to get MAPS DIGEST. Possible attendance Macomb Show. (You wouldn't be sorry!)

WILLIAM D. MCCOY
3708 Noblitt Drive Apt. 2
Louisville, KY 40218
502-458-3341

Cartographer. Will trade. Major interest ecology of fossils, evolutionary biology. Has various Paleozoic brachiopods, trilobites, bryozoans, cephalopods, etc. I am interested in the publications you put out and getting in touch with other collectors etc.

DAVID A. PAULI
PO Box 61812 #1141
New Orleans, LA 70161
504-561-4235 (W)
504-736-0428 (H)

Exploration Geologist. Will trade. Major interest sedimentology/Paleontology. Has not determined what is available for trade. I love fossils and enjoy studying the evolution of life as recorded in the fossil record.



The Mid-America Paleontology Society--MAPS--was formed to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology; to encourage the proper collecting, study, preparation, and display of fossil material; and to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology. It is a non-profit society incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa.

Membership in MAPS is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils and the aims of the Society.

Membership fee: January 1 through December 31 is \$10.00 per household.

MAPS meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of each month (2nd Saturday if inclement weather). September, October, May, June, and July meetings are scheduled field trips. The August meeting is in conjunction with the Bedford, Indiana, Swap sponsored by the Indiana Society of Paleontology, the Indiana Chapter of MAPS. November through April meetings are scheduled for 2 p.m. in the Science Building, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. MAPS Annual International Fossil Exposition is held in the Spring, and a second show in the Fall, Fossilmania, is sponsored by Austin Paleontological Society, a MAPS Affiliate.

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CYATHOCRINITES

MID-AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY

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Dated Material - Meeting Notice



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Davenport, IA 52806

